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Hammerstrom Continues to Make Children a Priority

Senate Passed Resolution Names Playground Safety Week in Michigan

April 23, 2002- Today the Senate adopted a resolution introduced by Senator Bev Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) to commemorate April 21-25, 2003 as Playground Safety Week in Michigan.

Senate Resolution 62 follows in the footsteps of the National Playground Safety Week to bring awareness about the issue to Michigan. The focus of the campaign is to inform the citizens of our state how we may substantially reduce the number of playground injuries and how to keep our children **SAFE**. **SAFE** stands for providing proper **S**upervision, **A**ge appropriate equipment, materials to soften **F**alls to the surface, and **E**quipment maintenance.

“With the coming of the spring and summer months, more of our children will be heading to the playgrounds” Hammerstrom said. “A large number of playground-related injuries occur during the months of April through June and I encourage all schools, parks, and other public facilities to comply with the Michigan Playground Equipment Safety Act and help keep our kids safe.”

Hammerstrom created the Playground Equipment Safety Act back in 1997 when she served in the House of Representatives. She has since updated the act twice to reflect the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards which are constantly being updated.

It has been reported by the National Program for Playground Safety that more than 200,000 children are injured on playgrounds in the United States each year, equaling an average on of playground-related emergency room visit every two and a half minutes.